# BOUNDARY AND ANNEXATION SURVEY (BAS)



## What is BAS?

BAS is an annual opportunity for tribal, state, and local governments to review the U.S. Census Bureau's boundary data to ensure that the Census Bureau has current and accurate legal boundary, name, and status information.

Through BAS, tribal governments can report legal boundary changes, such as additions and removals, small corrections to spatially incorrect boundaries, and record new reservations or off-reservation trust lands. Tribal governments can update boundaries, features, and landmarks for:

- Federally recognized American Indian reservations.
- Off-reservation trust lands.
- Tribal subdivisions.
- Census Designated Places (CDPs).

# Why should my government participate in BAS?

The Census Bureau uses the boundary information collected through BAS for data collection, tabulation, and dissemination for the decennial census, American Community Survey (ACS), and many other censuses and surveys.

The federal government allocates more than \$675 billion in federal funds annually for health, welfare, infrastructure, education, and other federal programs and services. Correct boundaries ensure governments receive funds appropriately and have the best data available for decision-making.

#### How do I get started?

- 1. Review the Census Bureau's existing boundary data.
- Complete the Annual Response Form at <www.census.gov/geo/ partnerships/bas>.
- 3. Submit boundary updates.



#### Contact information

Email: <geo.bas@census.gov> Phone: 1-800-972-5651

Website: <www.census.gov/programs-surveys/bas.html>

Accurate boundary records directly affect the quality of life in your community.



**Accurate boundaries** allow us to accurately tabulate data for your reservation and off-reservation trust land.



Your participation in BAS helps the Census Bureau produce accurate data, which directly affects the quality of life in your community.



Accurate data tabulation helps the federal government allocate billions of dollars in federal funds annually for programs and services, including education, housing, healthcare, services for the elderly, job training, transportation, and more.



## Responding to BAS is easy!

The Census Bureau provides multiple free, user-friendly methods for BAS participants to submit updates.

#### **BAS Partnership Toolbox**

Experienced geographic information systems (GIS) users can download and update partnership shapefiles using the BAS Partnership Toolbox within ArcGIS Desktop and ArcGIS Pro.

#### **Geographic Update Partnership Software (GUPS)**

GUPS is a free, customized GIS tool that contains all the functionality participants need to create their BAS submission. GUPS is intended for participants with a basic understanding of or limited experience with GIS software, but is great for participants of all skill levels.

#### **Paper Maps**

Participants without GIS experience can request free paper maps and annotation materials from the BAS website.

The Census Bureau created training videos to give BAS participants detailed instructions and information on how to report and submit BAS changes. These videos are available on the BAS website at <www.census.gov/programs-surveys/bas/library/bas-videos.html>.



To review the Census Bureau's existing boundary data, visit our online mapping applicating TIGERweb at <a href="https://tigerweb.geo.census.gov/tigerwebmain/TIGERweb\_main.html">https://tigerwebmain/TIGERweb\_main.html</a>.



#### Will the Census Bureau contact my tribe for the BAS?

In recognition of tribal sovereignty, the Census Bureau works government to government with federally recognized tribes and contacts the following every year:

- · The tribal chair.
- A GIS staff member, planner, clerk, or other contact.
- · National American Indian Housing Council members.

## How can my tribe get more involved?

The Tribal Boundaries Subgroup is a subgroup of the Federal Geographic Data Committee's National Boundaries Group. It is made up of members from federally recognized tribes, federal agencies, state and local governments, private industry, and tribal organizations. Most members have a specialized interest in collecting, managing, or publishing geospatial data for tribal lands and boundaries. The information is available at <a href="https://communities.geoplatform.gov/ngda-govunits/tribal-boundaries-workgroup/">https://communities.geoplatform.gov/ngda-govunits/tribal-boundaries-workgroup/</a>>.



#### **Important BAS Dates**

#### **Early January**

The Census Bureau e-mails annual response information to the tribal chair and the BAS contact of all eligible governments with instructions on how to participate in the survey.

# January 1

Boundary updates must be legally in effect on or before this date to be reported in the current survey year.

#### March 1

First BAS deadline—Boundary updates returned by this date will be reflected in the ACS and in next year's BAS materials.

## **May 31**

Final BAS deadline—Boundary updates returned by this date will be reflected in next year's BAS materials.

